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MODIFICATIONS OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TARIFF

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MODIFICATIONS

OF THE

MEXICAN MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TARIFF.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
November 5, 1847.

SIR—The military contributions in the form of duties upon imports into Mexican ports, have been levied by the Department of War and of the Navy during the last six months under your order of the 31st of March last, and in view of the experience of the practical operation of the system, I respectfully recommend the following modifications in some of its details, which will largely augment the revenue.

That the duty on silk, flax, hemp or grass, cotton, wool, worsted or any manufactures of the same, or of either, or of mixtures thereof, coffee, teas, sugar, molasses, tobacco, and all manufactures thereof, including cigars and cigaritos, glass, china, and stoneware, iron and steel, and all manufactures of either not prohibited, be *thirty* per cent. *ad valorem*: On copper and all manufactures thereof, tallow, tallow candles, soap, fish, beef, pork, hams, bacon, tongues, butter, lard, cheese, rice, Indian corn and meal, potatoes, wheat, rye, oats, and all other grain, rye meal and oat meal, flour, whale and sperm oil, clocks, boots and shoes, pumps, bootees and slippers, bonnets, hats, caps, beer, ale, porter, cider, timber, boards, planks, scantling, shingles, lathes, pitch, tar, rosin, turpentine, spirits of turpentine, vinegar, apples, ship bread, hides, leather, and manufactures thereof, and paper of all kinds, twenty per cent. *ad valorem*: And these reduced rates shall also apply to all goods on which the duties are not paid, remaining not exceeding ninety days in deposite in the Mexican ports, introduced under previous regulations enforcing military contributions.

Yours, most respectfully,
(Signed) R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To the President.

November 6, 1847.

The modifications as above recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury are approved by me, and the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy will give the proper orders to carry them into effect.

(Signed) JAMES K. POLK.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, November 8, 1847.

SIR—I herewith send you a copy of an order of the President, modifying the existing rates of contributions on imports into Mexican ports in our military possession. The modifications will be at once adopted, and carried into effect on the receipt of a copy of said order.

With great respect, your ob't serv't,
(Signed) W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Major Gen. Scott,
Com'dg. U. S. Army, in Mexico.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, November 8, 1847.

SIR—I herewith send you a copy of an order of the President, modifying the existing rates of contributions on imports into Mexican ports in our military possession. The modifications will be at once adopted, and carried into effect at each port on the receipt of a copy of said order.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't.
(Signed) J. Y. MASON.
Secretary of the Navy.

Commodore M. C. Perry,
Com'dg. U. S. Naval Forces, Gulf of Mexico.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
November 16, 1847.

SIR—With a view to augment the military contributions now collected by the Department of War and of the Navy, under your order of the 31st of March last, I recommend that the export duty exacted before the war by the Government of Mexico, be now collected at the port of exportation, by the same officers of the Army or Navy of the United States in the Mexican ports in our possession, who are authorized to collect the import duties, abolishing however the prohibition of exports established in certain cases by the Mexican Government, as also all interior transit duties, dispensing also with the necessity of any certificate of having paid any duty to the Mexican Government.

The export duty would then be as follows:

On gold, coined, or wrought, three per cent.

Silver, coined, six per cent.

Silver, wrought, with or without certificate of having paid any duty to the Mexican Government, seven per cent.

Silver, refined, or pure, wrought or in ingots, with or without certificate of having paid to the Mexican Government duty, seven per cent.

Gold, unwrought, or in a state of ore or dust, three per cent.

Silver, unwrought, or in a state of ore, seven per cent.

When gold or silver in any form is taken from any interior Mexican city in our military possession, the export duty must be paid there to the officer of the United States Commanding, and his certificate of such pre-payment must be produced at the Mexican port of exportation, otherwise a double duty will be collected upon the arrival of such gold or silver, at the Mexican port of exportation. Whenever it is practicable, all internal taxes of every description, whether upon persons or property, exacted by the Government of Mexico, or by any Department, town, or city thereof, should be collected by our military officers in possession, and appropriated as military contributions towards defraying the expenses of the war, excluding however all duties in the transit of goods from one department to another, which duties being prejudicial to revenue, and restrictive of the exchange of imports for exports, were abolished by your order of the 31st of March last.

Yours, most respectfully,
(Signed) R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To the President.

November 16, 1847.

The modifications and military contributions as above recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury are approved by me, and the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, will give the proper orders to carry them into effect.

(Signed) JAMES K. POLK.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, November 17, 1847.

SIR—I herewith transmit to you an order made by the President dated the 16th instant, requiring the collection of an export duty on gold and silver, and whenever it is practicable, all internal taxes of every description, whether upon persons or property, exacted by the Government of Mexico, or by any Department, town, or city thereof, to be collected by our military officers in possession, except transit duty referred to in said order.

You will take proper measures, and give the necessary directions to carry this order into effect, to the utmost practicable extent.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't.
(Signed) W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Major Gen. W. Scott.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, November 17, 1847.

SIR—I herewith transmit to you an order made by the President, dated the 16th instant, requiring the collection of an export duty on gold and silver, and whenever it is practicable, all internal taxes of every description, whether upon persons or property, exacted by the Government of Mexico, or by any Department, town, or city thereof, to be collected by our military officers in possession, except transit duty referred to in said order.

You will take proper measures, and give the necesary directions to carry this order into effect to the utmost practicable extent.

I am, respectfully, your ob't serv't.
(Signed) J. Y. MASON,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commodore M. C. Perry,
Com'dg. U. S. Squadron, Gulf of Mexico.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, November 17, 1847.

Sir:—I herewith transmit to you an order made by the President, dated the 16th instant, remitting the collection of an export duty on gold and silver, and whenever it is practicable, all internal duties of every description, whether upon persons or property, exacted by the Government of Mexico, or by any Department, town, or city thereof, to be collected by our military officers in possession, except transit duty referred to in said order.

You will take proper measures, and give the necessary directions to carry this order into effect to the utmost practicable extent.

I am, respectfully, your ob't serv't.

Commodore M. C. Perry,
Comdg. U. S. Squadron, Gulf of Mexico.

(Signed) J. Y. MASON,
Secretary of the Navy.